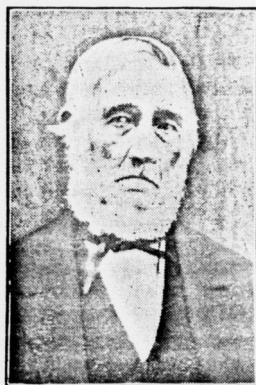


employ of the company and constructed a large portion of the Gravity road bed. One of his later works was the construction of the Ball dam on Fall Brook. He was the first superintendent of the city's streets and was a veteran of the war of 1812.

D. B. Blanchard was the first justice of the peace appointed for Carbondale township. His second docket is still in this city and is a well preserved volume. He was appointed in 1829. The first entry in this docket is numbered 1,091 and dated April 16, 1833, showing that law business was brisk in those days.

James W. Goff was the first postmaster. The office was established here in 1830 and it was set up in the wing or extension to the Lathrop store of which we present a picture. Mr. Goff was elected sheriff of the county in later years and of course removed to Wilkes-Barre. He afterward represented old Luzerne in the legislature. A great grand-daughter of Mr. Goff is Mrs. Randolph Mason, of this city.



SALMON LATHROP,
First Store Keeper in Carbondale.

SLIGHTLY POLITICAL.

George R. Love whose reminiscences have been quoted several times in these columns says that in the way of politics Carbondale was of the conservative order. In this connection he is reminded of William Ball who was an old time Whig. Mr. Ball, he says, had more political statistics than any man in the town. He was the equal of Horace Greeley or Thurlow Weed and was authority in locating most congressmen of his time and their doings. Mr. Ball came here from New York to erect the engines of the Gravity road on this side of the Moosics and stayed as master mechanic for the company.

There was considerable excitement over the election of 1844 and it was decided to have a great rally here on September 13. It took place on the old parade ground and there Galusha A. Grow who has been fifty years in congress made his maiden political speech being then on the Democratic side. James Clarkson had promised a banner to the district which brought out the greatest number of men. Greenfield took the trophy. Luzerne county was then a Gibraltar of Democracy but many joined the Republican party when the war came on, including Mr. Grow.

MONEY WAS SCARCE.

During the panic of 1837, and for many years after the currency issued by state banks and used by the people was held at an enormous discount. So scarce was currency that some of the merchants issued bills which were known as "shin plasters." About 1838 the state was unable to pay its creditors and the legislature authorized the issue of relief notes. Amid this trouble there was a bright spot for the people of Carbondale. The D. & H. company had established a bank of issue in New York and paid their men in its notes. They were never below par in that city which was always the money centre of the country.

This recalls another peculiar incident in the trials of the early settlers. One year the wheat crop failed and the Wyoming dealers raised the price till it was almost impossible to pay for it. At this juncture the D. & H. brought flour from the Genesee country in New York state and there was a great strife to secure even a small portion of it. Flour was at that time selling for \$20 a barrel.

We read that in 1837 Carbondale had forty-one stores, eighteen of which kept liquors as a necessary part of their stock. This suggests something of the early history of temperance in this city. S. E. Raynor was the acknowledged leader in juvenile temperance work and he was the first president of the Youths temperance society formed on December 18th, 1844. Among the officers were John. Dickson, William Woods, John Wilson, C. M. Babcock, James Archbald, Anthony Underhill. The list of members embraced J. E. Watt, Addison Durfee, James Archbald, W. R. Baker, John Archbald, Geo. Dickson, David Moses, C. C. Jadwin, Franklin and Hannibal Durfee,

John Wilson, James H. Johnson, Henry Hodgdon, Orlando Jadwin, David Burnham, Robert Campbell, Angus Cameron, Truman Bradley, John Gillespie, David Maxey, E. F. Jeslin, W. W. Watt, John Bowen, J. D. Grennell, W. W. Thompson, L. C. Hathaway, Edward Clarkson, C. M. Waterbury, Isaac Jackson, George Moses, W. Silsbee, James Eaton, Adam

Bryden, Horatio Whiting, Robert Simpson, Henry Wilson, Thomas Davis, Harriet Ensign, Harriet Jackson, Margaret Gillespie, Elizabeth Eaton, Eliza Williams, Jane Sweet, Jane Ball, Margaret Archbald, Emma Allen, Lucretia Benjamin, Adeline Grennell,



CAPT. CHARLES SMITH,
First Superintendent of Streets.